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21 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Foreign Assessment Center  
Acting Deputy Director for Administration  
Deputy Director for Science & Technology  
Deputy Director for Operations  
Legislative Counsel  
General Counsel  
Assistant/DCI/Public Affairs Officer

INFO TO: Inspector General

FROM: Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: The Snepp Book

1. The DDO will nominate a chairman to convene a working group to review the Snepp book. Each of the other action addressees will nominate a representative. This working group will review the book for the following purposes:

a. To identify those allegations to which the Director should be able to respond promptly, for example:

- that Agency intelligence reporting was fabricated, distorted, politicized, withheld, etc.

- that Agency relationships with the press were too cozy, manipulative, that the Agency used the press for disinformation purposes, etc.

- that Agency officials were guilty of corruption, engaged in coup attempts, condoned narcotics trafficking, etc.

b. To identify security problems, particularly exposure of sources and methods, for example.

- information which might help the SRV identify an agent who remains in Vietnam

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- information which newly exposes DDO operations and techniques

- information exposing liaison relations.

c. To identify errors in fact.

d. To identify any other material which has the potential for posing problems - operational, legal, public affairs, etc., for the Agency.

2. There are three areas of priority concern. The first includes materials described in paragraph 1a. The second and third cover material in paragraph 1b for the purpose of (a) assisting OGC in its negotiations with the Department of Justice to determine what legal recourse might be taken by the government, and (b) enabling DDO to make a damage assessment and determine what, if any, protective action is feasible.

3. The working group should, therefore, give its first attention to items in paragraphs 1a and b. Members of the working group should be authorized to obtain the assistance of other officers in each component who may be able to help in identifying and defining specific problems as noted above.

4. Addressees should submit the name of their nominee to [redacted] before noon, November 22. The Chairman will call an organizing meeting on the afternoon of November 22.

[redacted]  
John F. Blake

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